

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3637

ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003

EROSION DUE TO GANGA AND PADMA RIVERS

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of erosion due to Padma and Ganga rivers;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the cause of erosion due to such rivers; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to prevent the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The erosion in banks of Ganga/Padma is a natural phenomenon being a meandering river. The intensity of erosion varies with location and also from year to year.

Flood Management including river erosion being a state subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance which is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

Ganga flood Control Commission had prepared comprehensive MasterPlans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin including the main Ganga river. These Plans have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments for follow up action.

In 1996, the Planning Commission had appointed an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri G.R.Keskar, the then Member, Central Water Commission to study bank erosion problem in Ganga/Padma river in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. The Committee had recommended various short term and long term measures. The Planning Commission released an amount of Rs. 30.00 crore during the year 1998-99 to the Government of West Bengal as additional Central assistance for taking up of the above works. Thereafter in December, 1999, Government of India constituted a Central Team headed by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission based on whose recommendations, a scheme for implementation of critical anti erosion works in Ganga basin was formulated by Government of India. Since January, 2001, an amount of Rs. 23.48 crore has been released to West Bengal for taking up anti erosion works in Malda and Murshidabad districts along the river Ganga/Padma.

The above scheme for providing Central Assistance is also being continued during 10th Five Year Plan for which an Expert Committee has been constituted by Government of India which includes representative from West Bengal which will also look into the recommendations of earlier Committees including that of Keskar Committee.